Agriculture

Chapter 4 · Geography

Reading Guide · Glossary · Comprehension · Practice Questions · 10 Puzzles

NCERT Companion Workbook · Based on “Contemporary India II, Geography, NCERT Class X”

Name: _____

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School: _____

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Chapter Overview

This chapter surveys how Indian farming ranges from primitive subsistence methods to modern commercial and plantation farming, and how the rabi, kharif and zaid seasons shape what grows when. It maps the specific climate, soil and rainfall each major crop needs, from rice and wheat to cotton, jute and tea. It ends by describing the land, credit and technology reforms introduced after Independence to modernise agriculture and support farmers.

Reading & Study Guide

Section	What to Focus On
Types of Farming	Compare how subsistence, commercial and plantation farming differ.
Cropping Pattern: Rabi, Kharif and Zaid	Match each cropping season to its typical crops.
Major Crops	Notice what climate and soil each major crop needs.
Non-Food Crops	See how fibre crops connect farming to industry.
Technological and Institutional Reforms	Track the reforms meant to modernise Indian agriculture.

Key Terms Glossary

Term	What It Means
SUBSISTENCE	Farming mainly to feed the farmer's own family
PLANTATION	Single-crop farming on a large estate for market sale
JHUMMING	Shifting cultivation practised in India's north-eastern hill states
RABI	Cropping season for grain sown in winter
KHARIF	Cropping season for grain sown with the monsoon's arrival
ZAID	Short cropping season between the rabi and kharif seasons
CEREAL	Grain crop such as rice, wheat or maize
PULSES	Protein-rich legume crops like gram, moong and arhar
MILLET	Coarse but nutritious grain such as jowar or bajra
JOWAR	Rain-fed coarse grain grown mostly without irrigation
BAJRA	Coarse grain that thrives on sandy, shallow soils
RAGI	Iron-rich millet grown well on dry, red soils
GROUNDNUT	Leading kharif oilseed crop grown mainly in Gujarat

SUGARCANE	Tropical crop crushed for sugar, gur and molasses
JUTE	Fibre crop grown in flood-renewed soil, the golden fibre
COTTON	Fibre crop grown in Deccan's black cotton soil
SERICULTURE	Rearing of silkworms to produce silk fibre
HORTICULTURE	Cultivation of fruits, vegetables and ornamental plants
IRRIGATION	Artificial watering of fields where rainfall is insufficient
COOPERATIVE	Enterprise owned jointly by producers who share profits
BHOODAN	Land-gift movement started when a landlord donated acres voluntarily
GRAMDAN	Movement where whole villages were donated to the landless
ZAMINDARI	Landlord-based revenue system abolished as an institutional reform
LEGUMINOUS	Describes crops that restore soil fertility by fixing nitrogen
REVOLUTION	Sweeping technology-driven change in farm productivity after the 1960s

Comprehension Questions

Q1. How does primitive subsistence farming differ from intensive subsistence farming?

Q2. What defines commercial farming, and how can the same crop be commercial in one region but subsistence in another?

Q3. Explain the difference between the rabi and kharif cropping seasons with examples.

Q4. What geographical conditions favour rice cultivation in India?

Q5. Why are pulses usually grown in rotation with other crops?

Q6. What institutional reforms did the Indian government introduce after Independence to help farmers?

Q7. What was the Bhoodan-Gramdan movement and what did it try to achieve?

Q8. Why is jute called the golden fibre, and where is it mainly grown?

Short-Answer Practice (Worked Examples)

Q1. Which crop makes India the world's second largest producer after Brazil?

Q2. Which season's crops depend on the arrival of the monsoon?

Q3. What is jhumming called in Madhya Pradesh?

Q4. Who initiated the Bhoodan movement?

Q5. Why can rice be grown even in low-rainfall areas like Punjab?

Objective Practice

A. Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct option.

1. A system of agriculture where a single crop is grown on a large area describes:

a) Shifting agriculture

b) Plantation agriculture

c) Horticulture

d) Intensive agriculture

2. Which of the following is a rabi crop?

a) Rice

b) Gram

c) Millets

d) Cotton

3. Which of the following is a leguminous crop?

a) Pulses

b) Jowar

c) Millets

d) Sesamum

4. Jhumming, a form of shifting cultivation, is practised mainly in which region?

a) Coastal Andhra Pradesh

b) North-eastern states

c) Western Rajasthan

d) The Deccan plateau

5. India is the largest producer and consumer in the world of which crop group?

a) Pulses

b) Cotton

c) Jute

d) Groundnut

6. The 'golden fibre' refers to which crop?

a) Cotton

b) Jute

c) Silk

d) Hemp

7. Which crop requires over 200 cm of rainfall and an equatorial-type climate?

a) Rubber

b) Cotton

c) Wheat

d) Bajra

8. Who is credited with starting the Bhoodan movement?

a) Mahatma Gandhi

b) Jawaharlal Nehru

c) Vinoba Bhave

d) Ram Chandra Reddy

9. Land reform was the main focus of which Five Year Plan?

a) First

b) Second

c) Third

d) Fifth

10. The millet ragi is especially rich in which nutrients?

a) Iron and calcium

b) Vitamin C

c) Sodium

d) Protein alone

B. True or False

1. Kharif crops are sown with the onset of monsoon and harvested by autumn.
2. Rabi crops are sown in summer and harvested during the monsoon.
3. Plantation agriculture typically grows many different crops on a small plot.
4. India is the second largest producer of rice in the world after China.
5. Pulses generally need less moisture and can survive fairly dry conditions.
6. The Green Revolution benefited all regions of India equally.
7. Jute mills in India are concentrated mainly along the Hugli river in West Bengal.
8. Sericulture refers to the cultivation of cotton fibre.

C. Match the Following

Column A	Column B
1. Jhumming	a) Crop season running roughly from October to June
2. Rabi	b) Landlord revenue system abolished after Independence
3. Kharif	c) Crop type that restores nitrogen to the soil
4. Sericulture	d) Cultivation of fruits and vegetables
5. Bhoodan	e) Crop season tied to the monsoon's arrival

6. Zamindari	f) Shifting cultivation in north-eastern hill states
7. Leguminous	g) Voluntary land-gift movement started by a landlord's donation
8. Horticulture	h) Rearing silkworms for silk fibre

Higher-Order Thinking (HOTS) Questions

Q1. The chapter notes that Green Revolution benefits concentrated in a few regions. What long-term regional inequalities might this create, and how might institutional reform address them?

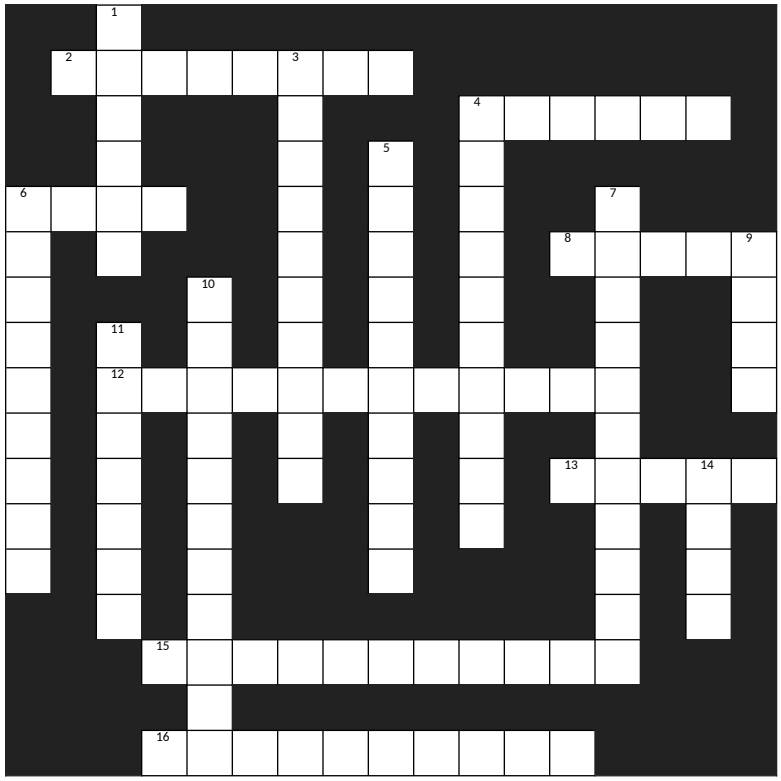
Q2. Rice is a commercial crop in Punjab but a subsistence crop in Odisha. What factors might explain this difference for the same crop?

Q3. How does land fragmentation from inheritance conflict with the goal of raising farm productivity, and what reform tried to fix it?

Q4. Suggest why plantation agriculture is described as having 'an interface of agriculture and industry,' and what that implies for the farmers who work there.

Puzzle Pack -- 10 Puzzles for This Chapter

1. Crossword



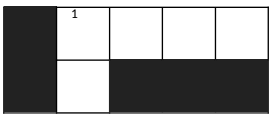
ACROSS

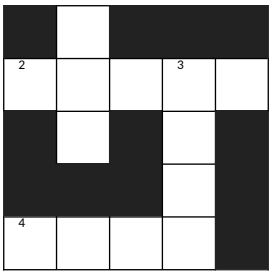
2. Shifting cultivation practised in India's north-eastern hill states
4. Protein-rich legume crops like gram, moong and arhar
6. Short cropping season between the rabi and kharif seasons
8. Rain-fed coarse grain grown mostly without irrigation
12. Cultivation of fruits, vegetables and ornamental plants
13. Coarse grain that thrives on sandy, shallow soils
15. Farming mainly to feed the farmer's own family
16. Describes crops that restore soil fertility by fixing nitrogen

DOWN

1. Cropping season for grain sown with the monsoon's arrival
3. Artificial watering of fields where rainfall is insufficient
4. Single-crop farming on a large estate for market sale
5. Sweeping technology-driven change in farm productivity after the 1960s
6. Landlord-based revenue system abolished as an institutional reform
7. Enterprise owned jointly by producers who share profits
9. Iron-rich millet grown well on dry, red soils
10. Rearing of silkworms to produce silk fibre
11. Land-gift movement started when a landlord donated acres voluntarily
14. Cropping season for grain sown in winter

2. Mini Crossword





ACROSS

1. Fibre crop grown in flood-renewed soil, the golden fibre
2. Coarse grain that thrives on sandy, shallow soils
4. Iron-rich millet grown well on dry, red soils

DOWN

1. Rain-fed coarse grain grown mostly without irrigation
3. Cropping season for grain sown in winter

3. Word Search

N	O	I	T	U	L	O	V	E	R	C	R	R	K	W
N	P	L	A	N	T	A	T	I	O	N	Y	E	H	J
E	I	R	A	D	N	I	M	A	Z	U	J	R	A	N
H	E	V	I	T	A	R	E	P	O	O	C	U	R	O
G	O	S	M	E	E	C	R	A	W	O	J	T	I	I
Y	R	R	U	I	C	S	E	S	L	U	P	L	F	T
N	Q	O	T	O	L	N	Z	R	I	W	A	U	W	A
B	A	C	U	I	N	L	E	D	E	B	J	C	B	G
H	F	D	O	N	C	I	E	T	G	A	A	I	A	I
O	H	Y	M	T	D	U	M	T	S	C	L	R	J	R
O	F	N	X	A	T	N	L	U	O	I	C	E	R	R
D	D	I	A	Z	R	O	U	T	G	I	S	S	A	I
A	T	J	U	T	E	G	N	T	U	E	G	B	J	C
N	V	G	N	I	M	M	U	H	J	R	L	A	U	E
E	N	A	C	R	A	G	U	S	N	K	E	R	R	S

Find: BAJRA · BHOODAN · CEREAL · COOPERATIVE · COTTON · GRAMDAN · GROUNDNUT · HORTICULTURE · IRRIGATION · JHUMMING · JOWAR · JUTE · KHARIF · LEGUMINOUS · MILLET · PLANTATION · PULSES · RABI · RAGI · REVOLUTION · SERICULTURE · SUBSISTENCE · SUGARCANE · ZAID · ZAMINDARI

4. Cryptogram

Each letter was replaced by another. Crack the code.

GYRGQB, GQCX RBN WYMQWA NYSCNY EKRZ CBNCRB MRWAYWG TWQE.

5. Caesar Coded Message

Every letter is shifted by the same amount. Find the shift.

TZKBVNEMNKX. LXTLHG, LHBE TGW KXYHKF WXVBWX PATM BGWBTG YTKFXKL ZKHP.

6. Word Scramble

Unscramble each set of letters using the clue.

1. KHAFIR -- Cropping season for grain sown with the monsoon's arrival
2. NGRARTIIIO -- Artificial watering of fields where rainfall is insufficient
3. TEJU -- Fibre crop grown in flood-renewed soil, the golden fibre
4. IDZA -- Short cropping season between the rabi and kharif seasons
5. ALECER -- Grain crop such as rice, wheat or maize
6. IUCTSRLEURE -- Rearing of silkworms to produce silk fibre
7. RTNUNGDUO -- Leading kharif oilseed crop grown mainly in Gujarat
8. DNMAAZIRI -- Landlord-based revenue system abolished as an institutional reform
9. HUGNMJIM -- Shifting cultivation practised in India's north-eastern hill states
10. MRDAGAN -- Movement where whole villages were donated to the landless

7. Acrostic

The highlighted letters spell a theme.

H _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ Cultivation of fruits, vegetables and ornamental plants

A _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ Single-crop farming on a large estate for market sale

R _ _ _ _ Cropping season for grain sown in winter

V _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ Enterprise owned jointly by producers who share profits

E _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ Farming mainly to feed the farmer's own family

S _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ Tropical crop crushed for sugar, gur and molasses

T _ _ _ _ _ _ Coarse but nutritious grain such as jowar or bajra

8. Match the Pairs

Match Column A with Column B.

Column A	Column B
A. MILLET	1. Sweeping technology-driven change in farm productivity after the 1960s
B. IRRIGATION	2. Fibre crop grown in Deccan's black cotton soil
C. SUBSISTENCE	3. Coarse but nutritious grain such as jowar or bajra
D. REVOLUTION	4. Grain crop such as rice, wheat or maize
E. RAGI	5. Iron-rich millet grown well on dry, red soils

F. CEREAL	6. Cultivation of fruits, vegetables and ornamental plants
G. COTTON	7. Artificial watering of fields where rainfall is insufficient
H. HORTICULTURE	8. Farming mainly to feed the farmer's own family

9. Fill in the Blanks

Fill each blank.

1. A single crop grown across a large estate for market sale defines _____ farming.
2. The landlord-based revenue system abolished after Independence was called the _____ system.
3. Shifting cultivation practised in Assam, Nagaland and Mizoram is locally called _____.
4. Crops sown at the start of the monsoon and harvested in autumn belong to the _____ season.
5. Farming that mainly feeds the cultivator's own family is called _____ farming.
6. Crops like gram, moong and arhar that restore soil nitrogen are called _____ crops.
7. The short summer cropping season between rabi and kharif is called _____.
8. Rearing silkworms to obtain silk fibre is known as _____.

10. Odd One Out

Circle the item that does not belong.

1. Rabi Sericulture Kharif Zaid
2. Ragi Jowar Bajra Jute
3. Bhoodan Zamindari Gramdan Cooperative
4. Jute Rubber Cotton Groundnut